FORM 30208
7-71 MFG. 2/76

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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INFO RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4202
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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6473
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: WITNESSES FOR FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE
REF: (A) STATE 235506, (B) STATE 239312, (C) BUENOS AIRES 6396
1. FOR MANY MONTHS THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSING GOA ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ONE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES THAT WE HAVE FACED IS A SIEGE MENTALITY ON THE PART OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY (I.E. THE CONVICTION THAT THEY ARE LOCKED IN A NO-HOLDS-BARRED STRUGGLE WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM) AND THE CONCOMITANT BELIEF THAT CRITICISM FROM ABROAD ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE REFLECTS OR IS STIMULATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. WE HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO DISABUSE THE GOVT HERE OF SUCH A SIMPLISTIC VIEW. WE HAVE INSISTED THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS, RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN THE US WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EXTREME LEFT AND WHO ARE CONCERNED OVER ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
2. OUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD ARE NOT HELPED AT ALL BY THE FACT THAT OF THE FIVE WITNESSES CALLED BY THE FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE AND REFERRED TO IN REFS A AND B (RODOLFO PUIGGROS, JUAN GELMAN, GUSTAVO ROCA, LUCIO GARZON MACEDO AND ROBERTO PIZARRO), THE FIRST FOUR ARE ALL MEMBERS OR EX-MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA) OR OF THE ERP. ARE THESE OBJECTIVE WITNESSES? AT LEAST ONE OF THESE PEOPLE REPRESENTS GROUP THAT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HUNDREDS OF MURDERS AND KID-NAPPINGS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. HOW ARE WE NOW TO ARGUE TO GOA THAT CRITICISM IN US DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT MANI-PULATION OF EXTREME LEFT? THIS KIND OF PERFORMANCE DOES NOT ADVANCE, ON CONTRARY, IT IS DETRIMENTAL TO CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA.
3. TO HELP US ARGUE A CREDITABLE CASE TO GOA, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT DEPT CAN SHED RE CRITERIA USED BY SUB-COMMITTEE IN CALLING WITNESSES. HILL

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